

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/013597

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-20 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1-25 received by this Authority on /filed with the demand
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/5-5/5 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1.	Statement		
	Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-25</u>	YES
		Claims <u></u>	NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>1-25</u>	YES
		Claims <u></u>	NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-25</u>	YES
		Claims <u></u>	NO
2.	Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)		
1.	Reference is made to the following documents:		
	D1: US-A-4 593 578.		
2.	Document D1 is considered the prior art closest to the subject matter of claims 1 and 16. It discloses (the references between parentheses relate to D1):		
2.1	a device for pressing a rack (2) against a pinion, comprising a pressure part (7) and a supporting element (4), wherein a spring element (6) disposed between the pressure part (7) and the supporting element (4) exerts the first of at least two consecutive degrees of pressure pressing the pressure part (7) against the rack (2), wherein the pressure part (7) and the supporting element (4) each have support surfaces facing each other, which in a basic position are disposed at a distance from each other.		
	The subject matter of claim 1 therefore differs from the known device in that the pressure part		

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	<p>and the supporting element are made of metal, the support surface of the supporting element is elastic, such that the second degree of pressure is exerted as soon as the support surfaces contact each other, the pressure part and the supporting element each have second supporting surfaces which face each other and in the basic position are disposed at a distance from each other which is greater than the distance between the first supporting surfaces, and wherein the second supporting surfaces are designed in such a way that they constitute a limit stop for the movement of the pressure part.</p> <p>2.2 Document D1 discloses (the references between parentheses relate to D1): a device for pressing a rack (2) against a pinion, having a pressure part (7) and a supporting element (4), wherein the pressure part (7) and the supporting element (4) each have supporting surfaces facing each other.</p> <p>The subject matter of claim 16 therefore differs from the known device in that the pressure part and the supporting element are made of metal, the pressure part and the supporting element each have supporting surfaces which face each other and in the basic position contact each other, the supporting surface of the supporting element is elastic, and the pressure part and the supporting element each have second supporting surfaces which face each other, are at a distance from each other in a basic position, and constitute a limit stop</p>

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	<p>for the movement of the pressure part.</p> <p>3. The problem to be solved by the present invention is therefore understood to be that of reducing pressure part play and minimizing noise. This combination of features is not known from or suggested by the available prior art. The suggested solution is therefore inventive. Claims 1 and 16 and dependent claims 2 to 15 and 16 to 25 therefore satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).</p>